

SECRET

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Friday - 7 May 1971

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1. [] Mr. Cord Meyer, ADDP, and I met with William Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, to tell him we were about to see Senators Milton Young and Allen Ellender, in company with Assistant Secretary of State David Abshire, regarding Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Woodruff said in his personal opinion the Radios were not worth continuing but when we argued to the contrary he said that in any event they definitely should not be included in the Agency budget for FY 1972. He said if we could find some other way of financing them it would be all right with him.

I told Woodruff that he was wrong in thinking that the Agency had "dragged its feet" in severing its relations with the Radios since we had been willing to do this ever since the Katzenbach report, but since no other solution could be found, we had been ordered by the President to keep the Radios going.

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2. [] Mr. Meyer and I then joined Mr. Abshire in meeting with Senator Young to whom Mr. Abshire explained plans for a "public-private" corporation to be funded by the Congress which would take over the Radios. Senator Young was sympathetic, and assured us he would help promote the necessary legislation. He said that the Defense appropriations bill probably would not be passed before the August recess so the Radios might be supported by a continuing resolution until then.

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3. [] Messrs. Abshire, Meyer and I were then joined by Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Martin Hillenbrand, in a meeting with Chairman Ellender, Senate Appropriations Committee. In response to Abshire's explanation of our purpose, Ellender said he had been convinced for years that our problems with the Soviets were largely of our own making and that nothing should be done to widen the gap between us, and that we should make every effort to improve our relations with Moscow. He expressed serious doubts that our Radios would contribute to this purpose, but said if a majority of the Senate favored the proposed legislation, he would not actively oppose it.

So far as timing was concerned, Ellender offered no encouragement for the suggestion that the Radios could be supported under a continuing resolution until late summer, insisting that he planned to have the Defense appropriation bill out of the way by the end of June.

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Thursday - 6 May 1971

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1. [] In response to Frank Slatinshek's request, Larry Houston, [] and I met with Russ Blandford and Frank Slatinshek, House Armed Services Committee staff, to review Agency programs in Southeast Asia which might be the subject of questions at tomorrow's appearance of Defense representatives on the Defense procurement authorization bill. (See [] Memo for Record for details.)

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2. [] David Abshire, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, called to say he had set up a meeting tomorrow with Senator Milton Young at 0930 and Senator Allen Ellender at 1000 hours for discussion of legislation regarding Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, and would like Cord Meyer and me to participate.

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3. [] Called Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, regarding a meeting with Colonel White and Bronson Tweedy preparatory to hearings scheduled by Chairman Ellender later this month on the community intelligence budget. Woodruff said he understood our problem and would indeed meet with us before the formal hearing, but could not do so this week.

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4. ([] []) and I met with Chairman James M. Hanley, Subcommittee on Employee Benefits, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, and John Martiny and Richard Barton, of the Committee staff, and explained the Agency position regarding the Ervin bill on privacy of Federal employees. Hanley seemed sympathetic and recognized the Agency's reluctance to appear in open session despite the fact the Committee has a policy against closed sessions. He apparently welcomed our suggestion that instead of a formal session, if the Subcommittee did wish to examine the problem in a body, we might invite them to Headquarters for a breakfast meeting and brief them informally.

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12. [] Met with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, and discussed with him our thoughts about funds to cover the close out of the Radios if that should be necessary. Woodruff expressed his disagreement with this idea. I also talked with Woodruff about coming out to the Agency to talk about the hearings which they propose to call on the intelligence community budget. See Memorandum for the Record.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

cc:
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O/DDCI

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Mr. Goodwin
Mr. Houston
DDI
DDS
DDS&T
EA/DDP
OPPB
Item 10 []

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